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Col. Hamilton takes over as AFRL/CCI

by Katherine Gleason, AFRL Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — In July, the Air Force Research Laboratory welcomed Col. Tom Hamilton as the new Director of the AFRL Corporate Information Office.

Hamilton comes to AFRL from the Air Force Materiel Command Plans and Programs Directorate, where he served as the command's Chief of Programs.

Prior to his time at AFMC, he served as the Materiel Systems Group Military Commander, where he was also in charge of the \$25 million Air Force level Headquarters Information Program. He credits this position with helping him develop his Chief Information Officer (CIO) expertise.

In his new position, Hamilton will lead AFRL's Enterprise Business System (EBS). Among his tasks will be advising AFRL Commander Maj. Gen. Paul D. Nielsen about program cost, schedule, performance, and risk, as well as working to institute an increased level of program management discipline.

"I believe there is an enormous opportunity for transformational change within AFRL," said Hamilton, "and the EBS program is one of the ways these changes can be brought about. Improved and standardized lab processes, and true integration of its operations as an enterprise are both achievable."

Supporting AFRL's transformational process is critically important to Hamilton.

"Gen. Nielsen's goal is to manage the lab as an enterprise rather than a series of individual directorates," Hamilton noted. "Through a series of steps designed to familiarize personnel with our transformation efforts, and then actually executing them, we can achieve this goal. Further, while improving efficiency and effectiveness for each of the directorates and the headquarters, EBS may also serve as an AFMC Transformation success, underscoring the criticality of AFRL contributions to our parent command."

Hamilton's framework: articulate the vision; enlist senior leader support; embrace the process; align the resources; execute the plan; and update the stakeholders. These stakeholders include the CIOs of the Department of Defense, the Air Force, and AFMC, as well as AFMC Commander Gen. Lester L. Lyles. Most important, however, are the scientists and engineers throughout AFRL, their directors, and Gen. Nielsen.

Although Hamilton has not been part of AFRL for very long, he has already recognized the value and quality of lab personnel.

"During my first month here, I have developed a great deal of appreciation for the quality of the people in AFRL," said Hamilton. "Their level of professionalism and expertise make the lab a truly unique environment."

Hamilton is a graduate of Air War College, Defense System Management College, Armed Forces Staff College, and National Defense University's (NDU) Information Resource Management College. He was the first DoD member to receive CIO certification through NDU.

Hamilton took over for Col. Bruce Thieman following his retirement. @



Col. Tom Hamilton